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CONTROL NO. Z-16069/82

NPIC/IEG (12/82)

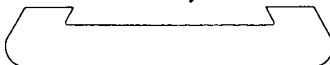
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**(c) NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER**Page 1 of 1Attachment to Z-16069/82  
NPIC/IEG (12/82)  
21 DECEMBER 1982

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PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL SHELTER UNDER CONSTRUCTIONSAKI AIRFIELD, USSR

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: CONSTRUCTION OF A PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL SHELTER OVER A CATAPULT TROUGH AT SAKI AIRFIELD SUGGESTS THAT EMPLACEMENT OF THE LAUNCH ENGINE CYLINDERS IS UNDERWAY.
2. (SWN) REMARKS: A RECTANGULAR STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK FOR A PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL SHELTER WAS ERECTED OVER THE CATAPULT TROUGH ORIENTED AT 045 DEGREES AT SAKI AIRFIELD. THE FRAMEWORK EXTENDED OVER THE ENTIRE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF THE TROUGH

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE FRAMEWORK BEGAN  
WHEN AT LEAST SEVEN  
SECTIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK WERE ERECTED OVER THE CATAPULT TROUGH.

(SWN) ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- THIS IS THE FIRST OBSERVATION OF THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY AT SAKI. NO SHELTER WAS OBSERVED AT THE CATAPULT TROUGH ORIENTED AT 225 DEGREES, WHICH HAD BEEN COVERED WITH DECK PLATES DURING THE SUMMER.

(SWN) ENVIRONMENTAL SHELTERS ARE USED TO FACILITATE THE EMPLACEMENT AND ALIGNMENT OF LAUNCH ENGINE CYLINDERS IN THE CATAPULT TROUGH. THE PLACEMENT TOLERANCES OF THE CYLINDERS IN THE TROUGH ARE CRITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE. ANY INACCURACIES IN THE PLACEMENT OF THE CYLINDERS COULD CAUSE THE PISTON ASSEMBLIES, WHICH TRANSMIT POWER TO THE LAUNCH AIRCRAFT, TO DAMAGE THE CYLINDERS WHEN THE CATAPULT IS FIRED. SIMILAR ENVIRONMENTAL SHELTERS HAVE BEEN BUILT OVER THE CATAPULT TROUGHS DURING THE INSTALLATION AND ALIGNMENT OF LAUNCH ENGINE CYLINDERS ON US NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIER CATAPULTS (SEE INSET).

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3. (S) COORDINATES 45-05-35N 033-36-21E

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